



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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April 23, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the Lincoln Police Department announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

On April 20, 2010, a Lincoln man was sentenced to 11 years and three months (135 months) in prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between November of 2007 and March of 2009. Information provided to law enforcement indicated that Brian Ziems was involved in distribution of methamphetamine in the Lincoln and assisted his co-defendant, Hector Cervantes-Rivera in transporting methamphetamine from Lincoln to various locations in Iowa. Ziems was held responsible for the distribution of between approximately three pounds and 11 pounds of methamphetamine. Following the prison term, Ziems will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment. Ziems's federal sentence will run concurrently (at the same time) with the remainder of a 1-5 year sentence imposed in May of 2009 by the Lancaster County District Court for possession of methamphetamine. That sentence was imposed after Ziems and a female associate were contacted by Lincoln Police officers in December of 2008 and found in possession of three small baggies containing a total of approximately 10 grams of methamphetamine.

Name of Defendant: Brian Darell Ziems

AKA:

Age: 36

City of residence: Lincoln

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The possible penalty is not less than 10 years nor more than life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. Following any term of imprisonment, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than

five years. There is also a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Lincoln and Iowa

Location of Arrest: Lincoln

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Ziems was held responsible for the distribution of at least 1.5 kilograms (approximately three pounds) but less than 5 kilograms (approximately 11 pounds) of methamphetamine.

Others Charged in Same Scheme: Hector Cervantes-Rivera. Cervantes also pled guilty to the conspiracy charge and is scheduled for sentencing in June of 2010

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: Between on or about November 1, 2007, and on or about March 31, 2009

Federal Arrest Date: November 3, 2009

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: October 21, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: November 3, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Pled guilty on January 29, 2010

Sentencing Date: April 20, 2010

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: none

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable Cheryl R. Zwart

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: held without bond

In Continuous Custody Since: December 12, 2008, when Ziems was arrested on state charge.

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Warren K. Urbom, United States Senior District Judge

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: SEF